

Action Guide series

Roadway Safety is part of NACE's Action Guide Series. First published in 1965, the series was variously revised, expanded, and reprinted in 1972, 1986, 1992, and 1995. In 1998–1999, the *Safety Improvements Action Guide* was updated, resulting in the new 2000 version, *Roadway Safety*.

Roadway Safety is part of Action Guide Volume III, which also addresses road surface management: traffic, bridges, drainage, aerial photography, soils, and pollution issues.

Volume I of the action guides addresses administrative issues for county engineers: organization, personnel, finances, tort liability, and maintenance management.

Volume II addresses planning and programming, as well as land development, rural public transportation, and solid waste management.

All three volumes are available through Iowa's LTAP library; see the related article.

The NACE Action Guides do not constitute a standard, specification, or regulation but are intended only as guidelines. •

NACE's safety guidelines have been updated

by Duane Smith, Associate Director for Outreach

In 1998 AND 1999 Tom McDonald, Iowa's Safety Circuit Rider, and I were honored to be part of a National Association of County Engineers (NACE) committee to update NACE's *Safety Improvements Action Guide*. The committee consisted of county engineers and representatives of Local Technical Assistance Programs (LTAP) and the Federal Highway Administration. Milt Johnson, P.E., a retired county engineer from Minnesota and former executive director of NACE, managed the update. Many of you know Milt from his involvement with the Iowa LTAP center.

Especially helpful for rural counties

The revised guide, *Roadway Safety*, published in 2000, has been prepared to assist county engineers, assistant engineers, and road superintendents with roadway safety-related responsibilities. Most of the information is directed to rural counties, where the engineer often has a limited engineering staff and where safety problems are different from those found in urban situations.

Special features

The brief guide is intended to help counties identify various road hazards and then develop safety improvements. It includes suggestions on ways to evaluate the seriousness of hazards and develop priority lists for addressing those hazards.

In general the guide discusses

- agency management, operations, and training
- roadway geometrics and roadside features
- traffic control devices
- work zone safety

Two safety audit checklists in the guide will help staff evaluate signs along a route and visibility and sight distance at intersections.

Suggested work zone signing, according to road type and speed limit, and channelization device spacing are presented in easy-to-read tables.

Of particular interest is the graph in chapter six that compares highway fatalities to fatalities in work zones. Approximately two percent of highway fatalities occur in work zones.

The guide includes many helpful photos that illustrate roadside hazards as well as correct placement of traffic control devices.

Roadway Safety will complement *Iowa's Traffic Control Devices and Pavement Markings: A Guide for Cities and Counties*, which will be distributed this spring (Iowa Highway Research Board TR-441).

For more information

Roadway Safety is available for loan from the Iowa LTAP library; contact Jim Hogan, library coordinator, 515-294-9481, hoganj@iastate.edu.

NACE members may purchase *Roadway Safety* from NACE for \$7.00 (\$10.00 for non-members), plus shipping.

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An order form is also available on NACE's website:
<http://www.naco.org/affils/nace/index/htm>. •